

Highlights from the local media of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

October 3rd, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 1/10

[40pc Afghans to get asylum in Europe: Govt](#)

Afghanistan Times | 2nd October
Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation said only 40 percent of the Afghan refugees would get asylum in the European countries. "Around 250,000 Afghans have applied for asylum in Europe, of whom only 40 will be granted asylum," Ahmad Wali Hakami, deputy minister said Sunday. He said that escaping of youth from their country had turned to a serious challenge for the government. Though the international community has allocated enough amounts to address refugee issues, but the problem still remains unsolved, he added. "Six million refugees have returned home since 2001 and currently, seven million are living in different regional, Asian, Europe and US states," he elaborated.

[Chinese Exim Bank to give US\\$ 1.16b in loan](#)

The Financial Express | 3rd October
The Exim Bank of China is set to provide Bangladesh with US\$ 1.16 billion in loan for implementing three major projects. Sources said state-owned Exim Bank wrapped up Thursday its negotiations on the proposed loan with the agencies concerned through Economic Relations Division (ERD).

[Militants attack Indian army camp in Kashmir](#)

The Express Tribune | 3rd October
Less than a week after the Indian military claimed that they had neutralised 'launch pads of terrorists' in the Pakistani side of Kashmir, at least six militants attacked an Indian army camp in northern part of the disputed Kashmir region on Sunday night, killing one border guard and wounding another. The brazen assault came two weeks after a similar attack killed 19 Indian soldiers and ratcheted up tensions between India and Pakistan. The latest attack on the camp of India's 46 Rastriya Rifles in Baramulla, which also houses a unit of the Border Security Force (BSF), started at around 10:30pm and repeated exchanges of fire ensued.

AFGHANISTAN

[Now Govt, HIA Responsible to Work Together for Stability: Ghani](#)

Outlook Afghanistan | 1st October

President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday said it was now a joint responsibility of his government and the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) to stop fighting and work for betterment of the country and steer Afghanistan out of dependence on foreigners. The president was speaking after signing a peace agreement with the HIA, led by Gulbadin Hekmatyar, who also affixed his signature to the document in a gathering at the Presidential Palace.

[Afghanistan in the shadow of the US Presidential Election](#)

Khaama Press | 2nd October

As US is entering in to its sixteenth year of its longest war in Afghanistan with no ending point in sight; the two leading US presidential candidates did not show any big interest during their first historic presidential debate to talk about their longest military war in Afghanistan and their future plans for the betterment of the situation in that region.

[Taliban launch coordinated attack on Kunduz city](#)

Khaama Press | 3rd October

The Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack on Kunduz city to recapture its control a year after the control of the strategic city was briefly taken by the militants. The provincial officials have said the attack was launched from different areas on the city late on Sunday night and sporadic clashes still continue in the outskirts of the city. An official in the provincial council confirmed the launch of the offensive by the Taliban and said the militants have managed to reach Se Saraka area of the city.

BANGLADESH

[India approves 61 border haats on Bangladesh border](#)

The Financial Express | 2nd October

India's home ministry finally approved 61 'border haats' on the border with Bangladesh. But the locations could not be specified, reports bdnews24.com quoting Times of India. The report said that the final clearance for these 'border haats' have come from the home ministry after due consultations with the Border Security Force (BSF).

[US hails Bangladesh's efforts to control terrorism during security dialogue](#)

Bdnews24 | 2nd October

The fifth round of the Bangladesh-US security dialogue held in Dhaka has lauded the government's efforts against terrorism, particularly after the July 1 attack. The day-long dialogue on Sunday covered all issues related to security partnership between the countries including strategic priorities and regional security issues, defence cooperation, civilian security cooperation, UN peacekeeping, and counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism. According to a joint statement, the US side "applauded" Bangladesh government's efforts to control terrorist activities after the Holey Artisan attack by involving all relevant agencies.

[Diplomatic ties with Pakistan to continue](#)

The Daily Star | 3rd October

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh's diplomatic relations with Pakistan will continue alongside disputes although Pakistan has been making various adverse statements on the ongoing war crimes trial. "...whatever [adverse thing] they [Pakistan] are saying, we're protesting that...our diplomatic relations with them will continue alongside disputes," she said.

BHUTAN

[Bhutan is not boycotting SAARC summit: PM](#)

Kuensel Online | 2nd October

Bhutan's decision to pull out of the 19th SAARC summit was a "responsible measure" to recognise and highlight the deteriorating security situation in the region, Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said at the Meet-the-Press, yesterday. The SAARC summit was scheduled for next month in Islamabad, Pakistan.

MALDIVES

[President: Strengthen bonds of unity and fraternity](#)

Sun Online | 2nd October

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom has appealed to the people of Maldives to learn from the historic journey of Prophet Mohamed and strengthen bonds of unity and fraternity within the Maldivian community. President Yameen made the appeal in his address to the nation on occasion of the Islamic New Year 1438 on Saturday night. Yameen said that the Islamic New Year symbolized the historic journey of the Prophet from his homeland Mecca to Medina. And urged the people of Maldives to learn from the virtues of unity, solidarity, sacrifice and fraternity it teaches.

[Economic Minister Saeed: 40 percent of subsidy goes to foreigners](#)

Sun Online | 3rd October

Economic Minister, Mohamed Saeed has said that 40 percent of the subsidies on staple goods that were being provided by the government have been going to foreigners. Talking on TVM's "Raajje Miadhu" (Maldives Today) program tonight, Minister Saeed said that a large portion of subsidies were not being spent on those it deserves. The Minister said that according to the latest census data, there are 340,000 Maldivians along with 124,000 expatriates in the country and over a million tourists visit the Maldives.

MYANMAR

[Suu Kyi warns ASEAN vibrant lawmakers should not be lawbreakers](#)

Mizzima | 1st October

Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi called on lawmakers to temper their behaviour in her opening speech at the 37th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Nay Pyi Taw on September 30. As she told the ASEAN delegates, ASEAN aspires to be people-oriented and people-centred and it important for members of parliament to obey the rules.

[Chinese naval ships dock in Myanmar on five-day visit](#)

Mizzima | 3rd October

Chinese naval vessels Xiangtan and Zhoushan of the 23rd Escort Task Group called at the Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) in Yangon's Thanlyin township on Friday, following the completion of its escort mission in the Gulf of Aden, reports Xinhua on September 30.

NEPAL

[Minister Shahi underscores Air safety at ICAO General Assembly](#)

RSS / My Republica | 2nd October

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Jiban Bahadur Shahi, has said that air safety would be strengthened in Nepal. Addressing the ongoing 39th General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal of Canada, Minister Shahi reiterated that Nepal government was committed to making the flights safe and reliable.

[Indo-Pak tensions affect Nepal's tourism sector](#)

My Republica | 3rd October

Nepal's tourism sector has started bearing the brunt of Indo-Pak tensions as international tourists have started cancelling their bookings to Nepal citing safety concerns.

[PMO prepares to bring parity in disaster relief](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 3rd October

Landslide and flood victims will get a significantly higher compensation if Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's announcement to ensure parity in disaster-related relief fund is implemented. On Saturday, the prime minister had pledged the landslide affected people in Pyuthan that his government was going to provide them equal compensation as the victims of last year's earthquake.

[Costly Saudi visa could hit Nepalis](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 3rd October

Saudi Arabia has made a heavy increase in visa fees as part of its effort to diversify its non-oil economy in a move that is likely to affect millions of foreigners including Nepali migrant workers. Saudi Arabia is the largest work destination for Nepalis in terms of the number of workers it hired last year. The oil-rich kingdom hired 138,529 Nepalis in the fiscal year 2015-16.

PAKISTAN

[Indian authorities seize 'Pakistani boat', detain 9 crew members off Gujarat](#)

The Express Tribune | 2nd October

Hours after India's Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar claimed efforts were on to secure the release of a soldier allegedly detained by Pakistan, the Indian Coast Guards claimed to have apprehended nine crew members on board a Pakistani boat from Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast. According to The Hindu, preliminary investigation suggested all crew members were fishermen who inadvertently crossed into Indian waters.

[Pakistan's growing burden of mounting debt](#)

The Express Tribune | 3rd October

Pakistan's economy is at the crossroads with two important developments taking place: the completion of the International Monetary Fund loan programme worth \$6.64 billion last week and the next budget being the last one by the PML-N government. These developments have left little room for progress in the economy. The country has received the IMF amount over three years and it is yet to start paying off its external debt, which has swelled to \$73 billion over a period of long time.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka Navy accused of attacking Indian fishermen again](#)

Colombo Page | 2nd October

Fishermen from Tamil Nadu have accused the Sri Lankan navy of attacking them for the second time in a week when they were fishing in the territorial waters of the island nation on Sunday. A fishermen representative in Rameswaram has alleged that the Sri Lankan Navy pelted stones and iron balls at the fishermen near Katchatheevu islet.

[Business chamber promotes Sri Lanka as a holiday and business destination for Nepal entrepreneurs](#)

Colombo Page | 2nd October

Nepal-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce in Kathmandu with the coordination of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Nepal organized a meeting between Secretary General of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) Ajith D. Perera and the members of Nepal - Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce at hotel Shangri-La in Kathmandu recently.

About Ananta Aspen Centre

Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that seeks to foster positive change in society through dissemination of knowledge. The Centre facilitates discussions on issues of international significance, values-based leadership and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders.

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